

DRAFT

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting

May 11, 2016

Present: Lynn Stoddard, Susannah Everett, Bill Lennon, Shawn Santasiere, Peter Millman, George Rawitscher, Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 pm by acting chairperson Santasiere. It was reported that Kristen Schwab had resigned from the committee and Peter Millman had requested a seat on the committee. Schwab was thanked for her many years of service to the committee and Town, and Millman was welcomed as a new member.

The February 3, March 9 and April 13, 2016 meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Santasiere/Lennon.

Walton reported that Schwab met with Linda Painter and Matt Hart to go over the Mansfield Town Hall/Community Center sustainable landscape plan that the committee had reviewed. Both the Town Planner and Town Manager particularly liked the educational aspect of the plan and thought a presentation to the Town Council would be helpful. The committee reviewed the plan again and recommended that a solar carport installed over the South Eagleville parking lot (instead of tree planting and permeable pavers as indicated on the plan) with a bio retention retrofit for storm water and connecting sidewalks for both pedestrian and bike use along the north side of South Eagleville Road are top priorities of the plan. The Town Hall entrance plaza on Route 195 and pedestrian corridor between the high school and the skate park and Community Center were higher priorities. Schwab offered to give a presentation on the plan to the Town Council this summer. Walton will coordinate the dates.

Santasiere reported that the E.O. Smith building project is on the school website. There are two upcoming meetings in the E.O. Smith library – May 16 at 6:30, which Santasiere will attend, and June 9 from 7 to 8:30 pm. Members were encouraged to attend the June 9 meeting. The committee reviewed a May 17, 2012 power point presentation about sustainable elementary siting recommendations that was developed by Stoddard, Schwab and Lennon. As more information is gathered about the E.O. Smith building project, the matrix could be refined to apply to the E. O. Smith proposal. Santasiere hopes to bring the building project plans to a future committee meeting. Everett offered to send the 2012 presentation to the new superintendent of schools as the elementary schools discussion will be revisited.

Stoddard reported on the May 5 Governor's Council on Climate Change meeting. Both Stoddard and Millman attended. A consultant presented various emissions scenarios based on Connecticut's energy mix and consumption. The goal of this initial meeting was to begin collaboration among communities. Concern was expressed about the State pushing natural gas as a bridge fuel.

Walton reported that using power purchase agreements Sunlight Solar will most likely be selected to install three photovoltaic systems at the Mansfield transfer station, public works garage and bus garage. It was questioned whether tax exempt lease purchases is a better financing option.

Rawitscher reported that the climate action task force has prioritized 122 action items from the Mansfield Tomorrow Plan. Forty five of them have been identified as high priorities. Each action item has been evaluated by a second tier of values - energy, transportation, water, risk, land management, zoning, infrastructure and quality of life. The prioritization process should be done and ready to present at the

next sustainability committee meeting. Rawitscher asked for guidance on the role of the task force once climate actions have been prioritized and reported to the sustainability committee.

Future meeting agenda items include discussion of climate action priorities, the continuing role of the task force, information on the town building study, E.O. Smith's relocation proposal and date for sustainable landscape plan presentation to the Town Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Walton

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